It is obvious that it is not money which stands in the way of developing Uttar Pradesh. It is, I believe, and I say this with great affection for that State, that democracy must deepen, broadan and mature in that State.

5.00 P.M. And must regain the glorious tradition of the first couple of decades of that State in order that the largest, the most populous State in the Indian union gets the benefit of development and poverty is abolished.

There was some reference to Uttarakhand. The provision for Uttarakhand is Rs. 489 crores of which special hill assistance is Rs. 225 crores.

Regarding sugarcane arrears when the Prime Minister made an announcement that Rs. 900 crores was in arrears as on 31.7.1996, Rs. 450 crores, approximately 50 per cent has been paid off.

There was some reference by one of the hon. Members to the poor State of education in that State. Rs. 4,039 crores is allocated for education which is 14.90 per cent of the total budget. Yet schools are closed. Examinations are not held. There are Vice-Chancellors without Universities and unversities without Vice-Chancellors. I think we can blame no one except ourselves. I hope the people of Uttar Pradesh would realise that it is not the money which is standing in the way. It is not the lack of money which was a cause for their problems.

Madam, I do not wish to take more time in giving more information about the budget. All I wish to point out is: This is a temporary phase and a temporary arrangement and soon there would be an elected Legislature and a responsible Government. We wish the people of Uttar Pradesh all the best and we will perform our duty. I would appeal to all to join me in performing our duty by passing this Appropriation Bill so that we can move on to the next stage of governance in Uttar Pradesh. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): The question is:

> That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the services of a part of the financial year 1996-97, as passed by Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I move:

> "That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): There is a statement by Mr. Arunachalam.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Agricultural Workers (Employment, Conditions of Service & Welfare Measures) Bill, 1996

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Madam, on 31.7. 1996, while answering the points raised during a Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, I had assured this august House that the Government are committed to alleviation of the plight of agricultural workers, are determined to come forward with a Central legislation for their protection and welfare and that this formed a specific item in the Common Minimum Programme of the Government. I had stated that our endeavour would be to

come forward with a Bill at the earliest, during the current Session itself.

Thereafter, as suggested by hon. Members, an All-Party Meeting was called on 21.8.1996 to consider the proposals for a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers. The meeting was attended by representatives of INC, BJP, CPI(M), DMK, AIADMK, AGP, MGP and SDF representatives from agriculture labour organisaitons like the Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union and the Anna Labur Union and the National Labour Institute were also present in the meeting, apart from senior officers of the Ministry of Labour led by the Secretary, Labour, Dr. L. Mishra.

The discussions in the All-Party Meeting were extremely useful and some good suggestions were made by the participants. One of the areas referred to in this connection pertains to the special probems and needs of women agricultural workers in matters of payment of equal wages, maternity benefits, child care, etc. There was consensus amongst the prticipants that this matter which has been under consideration for more than 20 years should now be finalised and given a concrete shape.

Members will recall that this question has been under the consideraton of various Governments since the 70s. for various reasons, including the complexity and enormity of the problem, a suitable legislation on this subject could not be enacted notwithstanding all-round agreement on the need for such a measure. As enumerated in the preceding paragraphs, we have formulated our proposals in this regard through a process of consultation and consensus. The proposals are now ready and now some procedural requirements are to be met. Since the current Session of Parliament is coming to an end now, it will not be possible to introduce this Bill in the current Session. I am, however, taking this opportunity to reiterate the Government's commitment to the cause of agricultural workers in particular and all other poor and under-privileged members of the society in general. I hope to introduce the Bill in the next Session of Parliament a couple of weeks from now.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): Now, we will take up the Private Members' business. The State of Pondicherry Bill 1992.

Dr. Jagannath Mishra. You were on your legs.

THE STATE OF PONDICHERRY BILL, 1992—CONTD.

डा० जगन्नाथ मिश्र: (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, पिछली बार मैंने यह निवेदन किया था कि यह विधेयक इसलिए आवश्यक है क्योंकि वर्तमान यू०टी० एक्ट, 1963 के तहत जो शक्तियां हैं वह काफी सीमित हैं, जिससे कार्यपालिका, विधायिका और प्रशासन को बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। सरकारिया आयोग ने भी अपने प्रतिवेदन में इस बात की चर्चा की थी कि विधायी, वित्तीय और प्रशासनिक शक्तियां जो इस समय हैं वे काफी कम हैं और इससे आम लोगों को बड़ी कठिनाई होती है, इसलिए इसमें विस्तार किया जाना चाहिए।

महोदया, वहां विधानसभा में समय-समय पर प्रस्ताव पास होते रहे हैं। अभी हाल में 4 सितंबर को, पहले 11 सितंबर, 1991 को, फिर 14 अप्रैल, 1993 को, 29 अप्रैल, 1994 को, 29 सितंबर, 1995 को वहां की विधानसभा ने पांडिचेरी को राज्य का दर्जा देने के संबंध में एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया। इस समय वर्तमान प्रधानमंत्री ने उत्तर प्रदेश विधानसभा की अनुशंसा को ध्यान में रखते हुए उत्तराखंड को राज्य का दर्जा देने का निर्णय लिया है, जिसकी सराहना की गई है, जिसका स्वागत किया गया है। चूंकि यह पांडिचेरी का मामला अनेक वर्षों से लंबित है और वहां की विधानसभा ने बार-बार इसके लिए प्रस्ताव पास किया है, इसलिए यह बड़ा समीचीन होगा कि पांडिचेरी को राज्य का दर्जा दिया जाए।

और राज्य का दर्जा देने से इस समय जो गैर योजना के पदों का सृजन करने में पाबंदियां लगी हुई हैं, गृह मंत्रालय की सहमति लेनी पड़ती है, वे पाबंदियां समाप्त